

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 7-9 and 11 are pending in the present application. Claims 7-9 and 11 have been amended by the present amendment without adding new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 7-9 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Chua et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,825,553 B2, herein “Chua”).

Regarding the above-noted outstanding rejection, independent Claims 7-9 and 11 have been amended to recite that a connecting member is electrically connected to second test elements and the connecting member “does not exist in the second layer.” The claim amendments find support in Figure 1B and its corresponding description in the specification. No new matter has been added.

Briefly recapitulating, independent Claim 7 is directed to a semiconductor device that includes, *inter alia*, a first layer that has a plurality of first test elements and a plurality of second test elements, and a second layer that has a plurality of pads. A connecting member is electrically connected to the second test elements and the connecting member does not exist in the second layer. In a non-limiting example, Figure 1B shows the first layer 20, the second layer 30, the plurality of first test elements 22a, the plurality of second test elements 22b, and the connecting member 23. Independent Claims 8, 9, and 11 are amended similar to independent Claim 7.

Turning to the applied art, Chua shows in Figures 3A-F a semiconductor device having a first layer 302, a second layer 310, first test elements 304 (right two elements in the figures), and second test elements 304 (left two elements in the figures). Further, Chua shows that a connecting member 308 is connected to all first and second test elements 304

and the connecting member 308 exists in both the first layer 302 and the second layer 310 (see for example Figures 3C-F). Therefore, Chua does not teach or suggest a connecting member that is not present in the second layer and electrically connected to second test elements, as required by amended Claims 7-9 and 11.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 7-9 and 11 patentably distinguish over Chua.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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